



ELSAH HISTORY

SUMMER-FALL, 1985

OUR 50TH ISSUE

In the summer of 1971, Historic Elsay officially became a Foundation with non-profit status and in the fall of that year its first newsletter was published. Fifty issues and over eight special publications later, the Foundation is grateful for fifteen years of sharing Elsay History with its membership.

The sometimes cumbersome complexities of gathering material for these newsletters is offset by the frequent and delightful discoveries of "new" information or old photos. Nevertheless, time and cost have necessitated reducing our issues to two a year. Members will have noticed, however, an effort to upgrade the quality of our printing and the size of each issue.

We are also pleased to announce that our next issue will be a special color-illustrated booklet by author Paul Williams (the newsletter's first editor), entitled *Frederick Oakes Sylvester: His Encounter With Elsay*.

We look forward to another 15 years of publishing Elsay news, research, and lore.

May we also take this occasion to invite each of you to earnestly help enlarge our membership by at least one new subscriber?

Included in this mailing is a list of HEF publications and their prices if you wish to extend your collection or provide a gift to a friend.

Thank you for your support!



(Elsah, February 15th, 1986.) This panoramic view was taken by Bob Graul standing on the River Road near the bridge which spans the Elsay Creek.



The Methodist Church and Parsonage on Selma Square. (Inge Mack)

***Editor's introduction to article on
Reverend Henry H. Delicate***

When Reverend Delicate arrived in Elsah the Methodist congregation was thirteen years old but still in need of a formal edifice. Dr. Dean's article covers an important aspect of the life of our community -- the Methodist Church and its ministers. The reader will note that Dr. William Delicate of Edwardsville, Illinois, collected all the material needed for the article and then asked our former board member, Mrs. Alma Barnes (then the owner of Maple Leaf Cottages), for information. The reader will quickly realize that most of our information on Rev. Delicate comes from the years after he left our village. We are always happy to publish material on Elsah families and their daily life.



REV. HENRY H. DELICATE

By George R. Dean

Dr. William E. Delicate, a retired physician of Edwardsville, Illinois, inquired of Alma Barnes if there were any record of his grandfather, Rev. Henry H. Delicate who at one time preached in the Elsah Methodist Church and probably lived in the historic parsonage now owned by Mike and Mary Ann Pitchford. After reading the article about Elsah in the Fall, 1984, issue of *Country Home* magazine he wondered if his grandfather could have been the circuit riding preacher spoken of in the article. Neither the Pitchfords nor Dr. Hosmer know of any such record.

In searching for the roots of his family Dr. Delicate wrote to the office of the Southern Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church who in turn supplied him with information from the library of McKendree College in Lebanon. Henry Delicate's life is reported in the minutes of the thirty-first session, Southern Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, September 20-25, 1982. The record shows his

pastoral charges in the following churches:

Vienna,	Johnson Co.	1871
Elsah,	Jersey Co.	1872
Kane,	Jersey Co.	1873-74
Grafton,	Jersey Co.	1875-76
Fieldon,	Jersey Co.	1877
Donaldson,	Montgomery Co.	1878
Edwardsville,	Madison Co.	1879
Wanda,	Madison Co.	1880-81

Dr. Delicate has supplied information from his searches of the life of his grandfather in England and the U. S. A. Henry H. Delicate was born May 8, 1842, probably in the parish of Southwick, County of Southampton, England. His mother was Jane Delicate. At this time it is uncertain who his father was, though it is very probable that he was an illegitimate child. He is next found in the 1851 census, Fareham Registration District, Hampshire, living with the family of James Carter. At 18 years of age he was indentured to John Harris as a painter, plumber, and glazier. By May 9, 1863 he had completed his apprenticeship to Mr. Harris.

Henry Delicate was converted when fourteen years of age, united with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and in 1858 was licensed to preach. On Dec. 24, 1863, in the parish church of Alverstoke in the County of Southampton he was married to Harriet Bunney. On September 23, 1864 in Alverstoke their first child, Annie Harriet Delicate was born. Two years afterward he with his family came to this country and settled in Albion, Illinois.

Although Dr. Delicate found no record of his arrival in the ports of Baltimore and New Orleans he has inferred that it must have been the latter. The first record in the U. S. is in Jersey County, Illinois where a son, Thomas Wesley, was born. Therefore he must have come up the Mississippi River from New Orleans.

Henry Delicate was admitted to the Southern Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1870. During his itinerant ministry his first pastoral charge was in New Liberty, Wayne County, Illinois where a child, Jesse Grant, was born. Later he served in Elsah, Jersey County, Illinois. Because the present Methodist Church building had not yet been constructed he must surely have lived and preached in the historic parsonage, especially as a daughter, Catherine Vescoe, was born in the village.

Dr. Delicate writes that his father always stated

that Rev. Delicate preached on Sundays and Wednesdays and painted the rest of the week. His death occurred on March 18, 1882 as a result of contracting scarlet fever from a parishioner whom he visited knowing full well the danger he was exposing himself to while visiting a patient with this disease.

Articles in the Grafton Weekly Republican and the Jersey County Democrat throw some further light on the life and character of Rev. Henry Delicate:

Grafton, January 1876:

"Method is the hinge of business." So think the good people of our town judging from what we saw in the M. E. Church last Sunday morning. Heretofore the Sunday School has been conducted after the old style, but through efficient management of the pastor, Brother Delicate, it started off last Sunday as a graded Sunday school, with Brook Stafford as its superintendent and 65 scholars in attendance.

Grafton, August 1876:

We have preaching every two weeks at the Farmer's school house by Rev. Delicate or Bro. Betaforce of Grafton.

Grafton, August 1876:

I have been on the move since my last, and have discovered that Solomon was wrong, as there is something new under the sun. A new church is actively being built at Hartford Graveyard. Rev. Delicate was down to Alton Monday last and the steamer Calhoun brought up framing lumber, and we learn that she will carry all that the church needs free.

Grafton, September 1876:

Rev. Delicate will leave our town for conference on Monday next. We understand he is not likely to be reappointed to the circuit. The reason is that the circuit is not able to support him.

Grafton, August 28, 1878:

There will be a basket meeting at Woodbury, 3 miles north of Kane in connection with the quarterly meeting of Kane circuit M. E. Church to commence Sept. 11 and continue three days. First service 11 AM. Rev. G. W. Hughey will preach. Come friends and let us have a good time. H. Delicate, Pastor.

Grafton, October 2, 1878:

Southern Illinois Conference held at Alton. Henry Delicate to Donaldson.

Grafton, August, 1876:

Our pastor Delicate is taking it very much to heart that his congregations are so small and those of his nearest neighbors, the saloon keepers, are so large. Now we do not feel like criticizing him, yet we must say that he ought not to expect effects to follow without causes preceding them. Now our friend has his church opened on Sunday for say 3 hours and during the 6 days of the week about 3 times, on the average of 1½ hours at a time, that would be an aggregate of about 7 hours per week, and shut up 165 hours & 30 minutes per week, while the saloon keepers keep open whole days and half the 7 nights and what they keep on hand warms more than his sermons do.

Jersey Co. Democrat, March 16, 1882, Jerseyville:

Rev. H. Delicate, a former resident of Grafton and this city died at Wanda, Ill. last Monday and was buried Wednesday. Mr. Delicate resided here but a short time, and engaged in the painting business, leaving the ministry for a time, but on removing from here again commenced work in the Master's Vinyard, and had commenced his second year as pastor at Wanda. He had many friends who will regret to learn of his death.

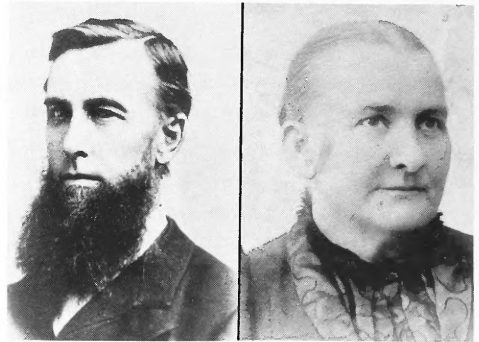
The contributions of Rev. Henry Delicate to the religious life of Elsah and the surrounding community were well expressed by his Presiding Elder, Rev. B. R. Pierce who officiated at his burial:

Henry Delicate was an earnest preacher, eminently practical, a superior pastor, a sane administrator of the discipline of the church. He was a cheerful and happy Christian, a man of fervent piety. He professed the blessing of perfect love, and his spirit and deportment were in perfect accord with his profession. At the last session of the Conference Bro. Delicate was appointed to the Wanda Circuit for a third year. He entered upon his work with his usual earnestness, and during the winter he was in good health, buoyant in spirits, and abundant in labors. In the spring the community where he lived was visited by a scourge of scarlet fever. He visited the sick, buried the dead, and comforted the bereaved until March 9th when he was stricken down by the disease in its most malignant form, and on the 12th of March he passed away from earth. From the first minute of the attack, he was impressed that his end was near. He said to his wife, "Tell my brethren that I am ready." He made some arrangements as to temporalities, spoke some words of counsel to his family, and in a few hours from the time of the attack his brain succumbed to the intensity of the fever, and he remained uncon-

scious until death. Several preachers of the district attended his funeral. His wife and children are left to the care of this Conference.

May the mantle of Henry Delicate fall on some young man that his work may go on.

Information and photographs were kindly supplied by the late Dr. William E. Delicate of Edwardsville, Illinois.



Above: Reverend Henry Delicate and his wife, Harriet; dates unknown. Below: Inside of the Methodist Church, Christmas, 1985. (Inge Mack)



THE VILLAGE OF ELSAH MUSEUM

by *Blanche Darnell*

"In late May the Village of Elsieh Museum, after a period of quiescence, reopened." Thus begins *ELSAH HISTORY* #24 of August 1978.

The Museum continued to greet visitors with the displays described in that article, under the nurturing care and development of director Paul Williams and the Museum Board until late 1983. At that time Paul moved on to other work, and the Museum Board was dissolved.

The Museum has been staffed on occasions since then when possible, but it has been evident the old school building needed complete refurbishing. The Village of Elsieh Board has been very helpful in this effort, contributing time, energy and considerable funds, and the most recent "reopening" (on December 7, 1985), is described elsewhere in this issue.

Glenn Felch has served since early 1984 as display coordinator and acting director, building on Paul Williams' work, primarily by adding new exhibits to display recent donations. (Glenn has also given, on permanent loan, the original Elsieh panels which he completed for a college art/history project in 1968. These have been on loan to the Elsieh Landing restaurant which now has photographic copies by permission of the artist.)

Historic Elsieh Foundation has actively contributed as well, providing photos, objects, files and new explanations as needed.

The Museum first opened in 1971 following the concerted efforts of Pat Farmer, Delby & Suzanne Darr, Ed and Eugenia Keller, and others who organized and acquired the beginnings of the collection. Donations of Elsieh artifacts have come in ever since from many sources including the Kellers, McDows, and Cronins.

The tools, particularly, show Elsieh as the rural outpost it was, reflecting the times and the difficult existence many endured making do with ingenuity and constant labor. Today one is hard put to identify most of these tools, yet they all served useful and needed functions in their time. The displays group them, using photos as well, to educate painlessly.

In many of the exhibit settings, bits and pieces of what was happening in the outside world are shown in the context of what was happening in



Winter patterns in the village. (Bob Graul)



Elsah at the time -- very helpful correlation! Located throughout the Museum are pencils and paper asking visitors to contribute their knowledge about the items on display or the history of the Village.

The structure itself, built as the village school in 1857, is probably unique among midwest school houses -- mainly in the use of so many large windows for light and fresh air. It would appear that Semple, the Village's developer and founder, was far ahead of his time in considering the well-being of the Elsah school children when he built the two-story stone school house.

The school was closed in 1971 during consolidation of many area schools, but the structure remains, and the upstairs portion is a worthy and light-filled setting for the Museum, while the first floor level has been beautifully redone by the Village Board for various public meetings and uses. (Details of that work are described elsewhere in this issue.)

Part of the entire upgrading project included replacing the 1928 crumbling cement steps leading up to the Museum door. The new stairs are of pressure-treated wood and are as nearly like the original ones as can be determined from available photos. (As Paul Barnes, longtime villager and Postmaster, saw the cement steps being demolished in front of the school house, he observed with a grin, "Last time, when they took out the old wooden ones to make way for new cement ones, it was right on the eve of the Great Depression. You don't s'pose **this** change will trigger anything like **that**, do you?")

As you enter the Museum today, the lovely quilt shown in ELSAH HISTORY #24 is on your right, hanging across the corner so mildew won't form on it. The eye is then carried to the McDow case and to the Glenn Felch murals of Elsah's early growth, out to the Keller alcove and around to the tools of all kinds and the photogravure pictures of activities of Elsah's yesterdays, well worth preserving for future generations.

At present, no permanent director has been appointed, and staffing is done March through November by village children on weekends from 2-4 p.m. Historic Elsah Foundation hopes to supplement more hours with volunteer help. On good weather weekends as many as 100 visitors sign the Museum registry. Increased interest in this area as a recreational and cultural highlight in the State of Illinois is bringing more attention to Elsah and the Museum is fulfilling an important educational need. Admission to the museum is free, though donations are gratefully accepted to help defray the

cost of the necessary climate control.

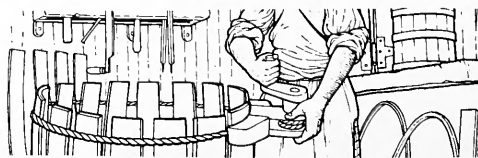
On Saturday, December 7, 1985, the Village of Elsah and Historic Elsah Foundation hosted a HOLIDAY FESTIVITY at the newly refurbished Museum and at the Civic Center featuring the recently installed and expanded museum collection and a slide-show of Elsah-throughout-the-years. Refreshments were served on a table decorated with holly and a delightful grouping of wooden Christmas figures from the collection of Irene Timmermiere of Alton.

In mid-March the Museum will open its doors again to the general public for its nine-month season.

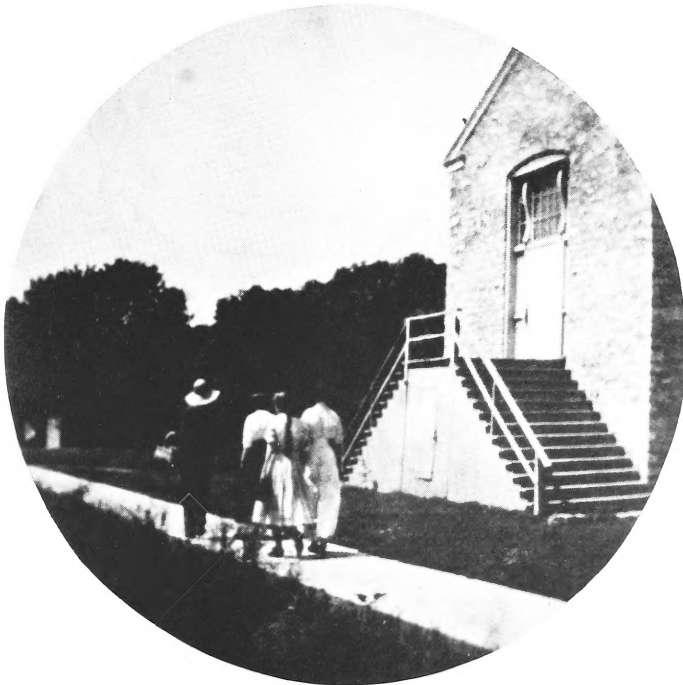
If you would like to contribute time to various Museum needs, please contact Village President, Jane Pfeifer.



Current staffing coordinator, Edith Pfeifer. The Village pays Jr. High and High School students to staff the Museum on weekends. (Inge Mack)



AN ELSAH ALBUM



Top: Students gathered on the original steps of the Elsbah school around the turn-of-the-century including a teacher identified as "Professor Puliam." Below: Sunday stroll past the village school. Date unknown.



Reflecting on the past — a corner of the Village Museum featuring a chair identified as originally one of many in the old Odd Fellows' Hall. (Inge Mack)



The newest museum showcase built into the back stair landing and featuring many items donated by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Keller from the store of J. K. Keller and Son. Of particular interest are the quilts made by both of Mr. Keller's grandmothers. (Al Mack)



Showcase featuring items related to Devey McDow's service in WWI. These and many other items have been donated by Nancy McDow. (Al Mack)

New location for the Elsab panel visualizations on indefinite loan to the Museum by Glenn Felch. The panels depict the Elsab waterfront in 1861, 1887, and 1894.



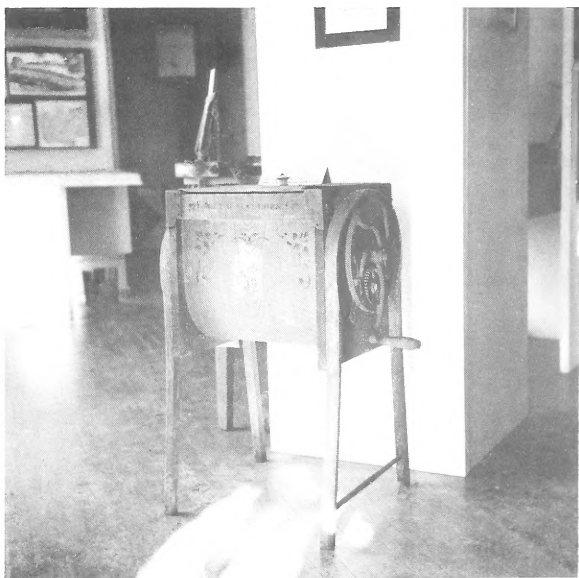


Display featuring spool cabinet from the Union Hotel; on loan from Historic Elsb Foundation. (Al Mack)

Display featuring old Elsb tools; this and many other exhibits were prepared by former Museum Director, Paul Williams. (Al Mack)

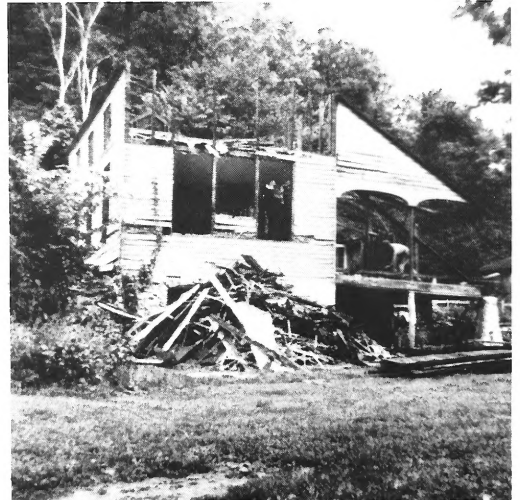


Old Elsb churn recently donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lewitz. Can you help us identify what type of churn it is? (Inge Mack)





This building, located on Palm Street, is Elsb's first reconstruction and is based on the Legate House which originally stood on the southwest corner of the Christian Science Church parking lot. Built by Eric Mack in 1984 - 85, the house was patterned from old photographs (one of which was printed in the previous newsletter). The Greek Revival "saltbox" silhouette adds an important "style" to the village collection. (Bob Graul). The photos below show the Legate House just prior to and during the demolition of the original house. (James Schmidt)





The extreme right of this photo includes the back of the original Legate House. Taken in the mid 1920's, it features one of Elsb's few two-story brick houses formerly on the northwest corner of the church parking lot. The maple trees still stand today. Farley's Music Hall is in the background. (Source: Mrs. E. Murphy)

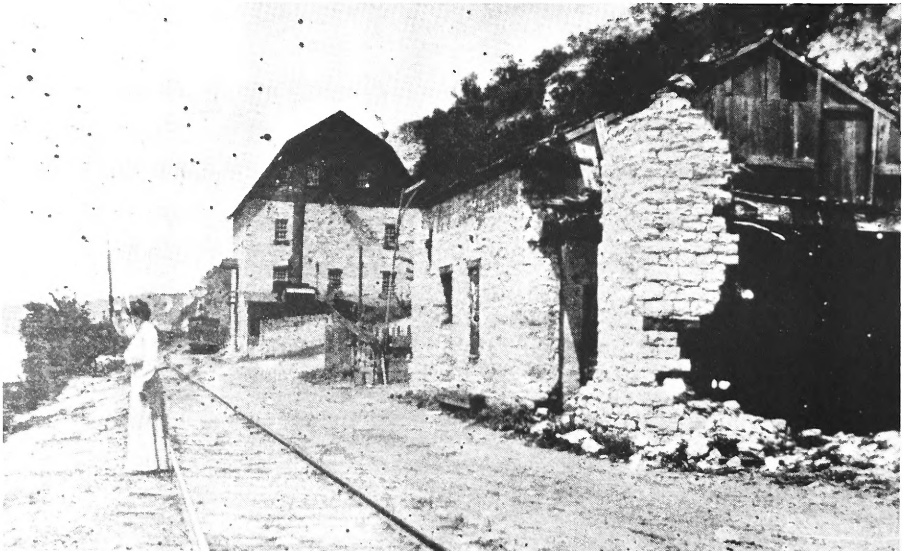
The Christian Science Church recently completed the expansion of its auditorium which extended the building towards the west bluff and the Methodist Parsonage. (Bob Graul)





Located on Mill Street, the "Green Tree Inn and General Mercantile" is Elsab's first new commercial building in fifty years. The building is still unfinished in this photo but its proprietors, Mike and Mary Ann Pitchford, have been steadily completing the project during the winter months. The Pitchfords modified a New England prototype to fit Elsab's midwest vernacular. (Inge Mack)

Amongst Elsab's former oldest commercial structures are the Doron Flour Mill and Hansell warehouses depicted here ca. 1910 (?). These are now buried beneath the River Road. This photo was recently contributed to HEF from the collection of William Meyer of Godfrey.

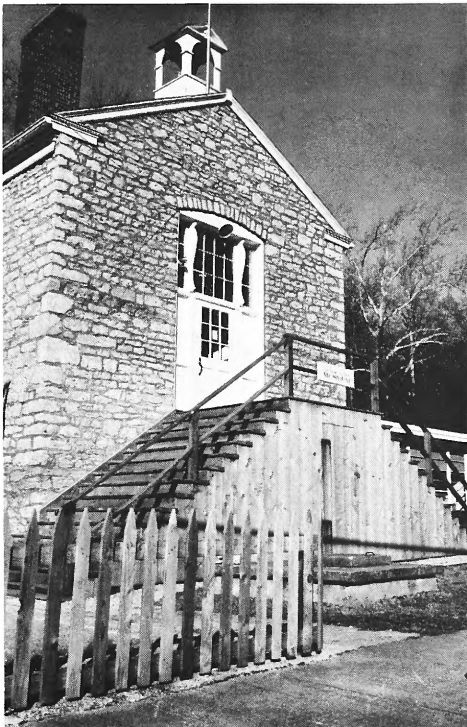


PRESERVING ELSAH FOR ALL

by *Blanche Darnell*

Three entities are actively involved with preserving as much of Elsay's uniqueness as possible -- **The Village Board, the Village of Elsay Zoning Board, and Historic Elsay Foundation.**

The Village Board is the legally elected governing body of the Village, overseeing the upkeep and wellbeing of the entire village. Its current members are Mayor Jane Pfeifer, Trustees Ned Bradley, Al Bruns, June Cronin, David Foltz, Eric Mack and Michael Pitchford, ably helped by elected Village Clerk Dorothy Lambert and Treasurer Linda Cornell.



The Village School (Museum) with newly restored wooden steps, 1985. (Inge Mack)

One recent project completed by the Board was the rebuilding of the Mill Street bridge (near the stop signs) adding the concrete footpath alongside to join the sidewalks. The old iron superstructure was reworked and reinstalled atop a much sturdier

base to look as much like the old bridge as possible, yet be safe for today's traffic load. The footbridge has pressure-treated hand rails for safety, and a gate at the south end (where the rail turns) is planned for easier access to the main parking lot.

Another project is the renovating of the old school building -- now a part of the Civic Center complex which includes the Museum, meeting hall and Village Board room. While renovating the ground floor school room, some interesting discoveries were made. The original ceiling had been raised in the 1870's undoubtedly as a result of raising the lower windows to a level higher than that of flash floods. This was determined by the evidence which showed the original position of the joists; the re-positioning and re-nailing of the splintered tongue and groove flooring; the 1870's shallow-beaded ceiling boards made of poplar; "new" plaster filling in the added wall height; and the obvious rework of masonry surrounding the lower level windows. An original exit (under the front steps) was also uncovered.

In considering the improvements, the Board gave much thought to the choice of material for the floor, finally deciding on pre-finished wood as the most appropriate choice. It cost more but has been very satisfactory and certainly contributes a warm feel to the room.

In the tearing-out process, it was found that, unlike the later version where the wall was plastered down to the baseboard, an earlier wall treatment used in the room had been a kind of wainscoting. This treatment was used in the renovation with lovely results.

The old furnace which had taken up an entire corner of the room was replaced with electric baseboard heat, which blends well with the wooden baseboards. Air conditioning was not installed, but large fans are available if needed.

The entrance landing from the Civic Center side of the building was turned 90° to join with the outside entrance and take up less space in the room. New electric "gaslight" type fixtures were used to light the room brightly for today's use. Mr. Pitchford was in charge of the project as Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds, but he gives full credit to the whole Board for its support and help in the project, which he feels shows the Board is aware of the need to maintain and preserve the heritage of this structure.

The Village Board Room is now a most pleasant place to conduct the business of the Village, and it gives a glimpse of how the room might have looked many years ago when it was first used as a

schoolroom. Older Elsah residents however, recall attending school in the lower room and each remembers the excessive dampness, the then dingy lighting, the variable comfort zones caused by a lack of insulation and an old-style coal-burning furnace, and the irresistible temptation to scratch initials in the slate and soft wood as well as to drop all sorts of "artifacts" down the large air ventilation holes, rendering them nearly useless as time went by.

The Board also has had the entire original school building tuck-pointed, and the windows will be scraped and repainted. It hopes to rework the brick wing (attached to the stone wing), so it will be more energy-efficient and more in keeping with the graciousness of the stone schoolhouse.

The Village of Elsah Zoning Board is appointed by the Village Board to comply with Ordinance 179, which established the zoning guidelines, Board and procedures in the fall of 1973 to protect the 19th century aspects of the village. (Enactment of this law helped in the process of listing Elsah on the National Register of Historic Places.) Current members include Chairman David Pfeifer, Bob Cronin, Blanche Darnell, Elise Durham, Judy Felch, Donna Hart (alternate), Mary Ann Pitchford, and Bob Rockabrand. Al Mack represents the Village as Building Commissioner, but he is not on the Zoning Board.

All Zoning Board members serve without pay, usually meeting on alternate Thursdays when there are applications to be considered. The scope of their work is specified in Ordinances 179, 190 and 207 and involves considering all permit applications for exterior changes in the Village, with regard to historical aptness, aesthetics, Village conditions, etc. In addition, they periodically send out letters to the villagers to help those applying for permits. They strive to work with each applicant to help bring about solutions acceptable to all. Although the work often appears in the category of thankless tasks, the Board members try to do it with honesty, compassion, and care for those details which will either enhance or detract from the 19th century heritage they are pledged to preserve.

Historic Elsah Foundation, the third and entirely non-governmental entity, developed out of the old Elsah Garden Club and was incorporated in 1971 as the Historic Elsah Foundation with its main purpose to help the community record and maintain its special character. To accomplish this the Foundation actively organizes village events, regularly publishes a Historic Newsletter and periodically prints booklets on important Elsah-related

subjects. When funds permit and need is apparent, it also acquires or maintains property within Elsah which might otherwise be neglected or commercially misused.

Membership in the Foundation is open to all, and there are four types of memberships to choose from -- Regular (\$5), Sustaining (\$10), Patron (\$50), Lifetime (\$500). The membership dues and donations help pay for the Foundation's publications and restoration projects. The Foundation's board members are all volunteer and include President Charles Hosmer, Executive Director Inge Mack, and Trustees Paula Bradley, June Cronin, Fred Kirsch, Gilbert Ives, Mary Ann Pitchford, and Irene Timmermiere. Priscilla Harmon does yeoman's labor as Membership Chairman, and Marty Kennedy holds it all together as Executive Secretary and Treasurer, the only salaried position. In past years Paul Williams, Edith Belote, Glenn Felch, Alma Barnes, Donna Burnett, Pat Farmer and Jo Copeland have graciously and generously given their time and talents to the Foundation as active board members.

While the Museum preserves the historic past, Historic Elsah Foundation works to help preserve the living present of the Village of Elsah. In order to protect its character a small village has to keep its sense of community. This intangible sense of community is possibly the most important aspect of a village. And while the many 19th century structures along the narrow roads bordered by large shade-trees and picket fences set the stage, it is the contained quality of life which the villagers have been able to maintain that preserves this sense of community. And here is also where Historic Elsah Foundation has been active by sponsoring Christmas walks and dinners, concerts, photo and crafts exhibits, and lately by supporting the important Museum Refurbishing Project.

In the publishing field, this is the Foundation's 50th newsletter. It focuses on what is happening today, on how the villagers are trying to protect a certain quality of life and at the same time share it with the larger public. Previous newsletters have dealt with country schools, gardens, outbuildings, winter eagles, Elsah citizens, geodes, and many other subjects. The titles of two of the most popular booklets published by the Foundation are *Chautauqua, Illinois: A Brief History* and *The Great River: Master Sculptor*.

An important publishing project about the poet-painter Frederick Oakes Sylvester is under preparation. The manuscript by Paul Williams and permission to use color illustrations have been

given to the Foundation.

A major restoration project of Historic Elsay Foundation has been and is the Old Village Hall. The Foundation does not own the Hall, but leases it from the Village and pays all utility and insurance bills. As the centennial of the structure nears, Historic Elsay Foundation looks back on the past fifteen years it has taken care of the building as a period of consolidation in the life of the structure. Using money from a number of house tours the Foundation straightened the Hall, put up a new chimney, put on a new roof, insulated the front portion, installed period light fixtures, and added interior window shades to make the Hall usable for daytime programs with visual aids. (Union Electric Company donated \$150 for this purpose.) Historic Elsay Foundation has re-painted the exterior and interior and has restored the outbuilding. It also has worked on the landscaping from time to time, adding a picket fence to complement the building.

The restoration and upkeep of this Hall is a **continuing** project. Bids are out to repair the belfry, repaint the exterior, re-flash the chimney, rebuild and/or replace the shutters, and repair one side of the foundation. By 1987, its centennial year, the Elsay Village Hall should regain its original Greek Revival appearance.

The other ongoing Historic Elsay Foundation restoration project is the Mott Commercial Building, the site of the Elsay Landing Restaurant and Jeremiah's -- Elsay, the new consignment shop on the second floor above the restaurant. Recent work included a restored roof, tuckpointed stonework, exterior repainting, and air-conditioning for the second floor shop. The Foundation does own this building and bought it in 1976 to help protect the commercial development in the village, which, if not guided, could grow in such a way that it would radically alter the quality of life in Elsay.

Thus all three groups -- the governing Village Board and its appointed Zoning Board and the independent Foundation -- will continue to work in their respective spheres to retain the essential character and charm of Elsay for all.

In addition, mention should be made of the considerable contribution made by **Principia College** in maintaining the property surrounding Elsay as a natural preserve. This preserve acts as a buffer from uncontrolled development.



HISTORIC ELSAH FOUNDATION

INCOME STATEMENT

January-November, 1985

	Income	Disbursements
Memberships	\$ 2,485.00	\$
Unrestricted		
donations	679.55	
Sales	895.56	
Rents	9,075.00	
House tours	675.00	
Village Hall		
restoration		
project	480.00	
Miscellaneous	306.90	
(Deductions for		
Loan Payable)	(400.00)	
HEF office expense		1,964.02
Upkeep at		
Village Hall		489.95
Preservation of		
Village Hall		865.54
Mott Commercial		
Building		6,292.31
Publication		
expense		3,617.01
Special events, etc.		191.70
Gifts to members		166.40
Corporate expense		420.99
Miscellaneous		22.01
	TOTAL	\$14,197.01
	Net income	167.08

<i>Restoration Expenses For</i>	
<i>Village Hall,</i>	
<i>1971-1985</i>	<i>\$14,643.98</i>
<i>Restoration Expenses For</i>	
<i>Mott Commercial Building</i>	
<i>(Elsah Landing Restaurant),</i>	
<i>1976-1985</i>	<i>\$31,863.85</i>
<i>Insurance and Taxes For</i>	
<i>Both Buildings,</i>	
<i>1971-1985</i>	<i>\$14,469.00</i>
<i>Total Expenditures For</i>	
<i>Both Buildings,</i>	
<i>1971-1985</i>	<i>\$60,976.83</i>

HAPPENINGS

in Elsah

- On a walk through the woods around Elsah one autumn afternoon while the late sun played through the thinned foliage and deepened the patches of burnished bronze dogwood leaves, we saw a flock of wild turkeys. A soft breeze rustled through the dried fallen leaves, when all at once, the rustling became heavier and more pronounced. There had to be something or someone in the woods. And, yes, there appeared at first one and then more and more large scampering birds. Wild turkeys! They ran ahead, darting left and right, and finally fled, awkwardly, into the tops of the trees.

- Overheard from the two ladies from Oklahoma walking into the polling room in the old school last week, the latest variation on the song, "Meet Me in St. Louis": "Meet me in St. Louis, and we will go to Elsah. It is beautiful, so peaceful, and not commercial."

- "Shep," the large black dog of the Bruns family, has an unusual habit of "dunking his head" underwater at the spring in Askew Creek. He walks in knee deep and then sticks his entire head in the water for several seconds. Strange.

- The new bridge on Mill Street with its separate pedestrian walk seems to be quite popular with villagers and visitors alike. Now it is safe to stop in the middle of the bridge and enjoy looking around.

- An old-fashioned wedding was held at the Elsah Methodist Church this fall which was quite breathtaking. The couple getting married was from Alton. The bride was dressed in an antique off-white Victorian wedding gown. The overskirt was scalloped at the base and trimmed with embroidery and seed pearls. The finishing touch to the wedding was the departure of the couple in a 1953 Silver Packard limousine complete with gloved chauffeur who stood at attention next to the car during the entire service. Large satin bows graced each door-handle.

- The Village Hall was used in the fall by Mary Ann Pitchford for lectures and workshops on topics ranging from 19th century architecture and herb gardens to old lace. The lectures included a take-home basket of gifts and a catered box lunch from the Elsah Landing Restaurant.

- Shortly before Christmas, the Pitchfords opened their newly built Green Tree Inn - the first commercial structure built in Elsah for more than

50 years. Period rooms are available for overnight guests and unique country gifts are offered in the shop. Tantalizing aromas greet visitors as they enter - originating from Mary Ann's wide assortment of dried herbs and flowers. The Pitchfords continue to add fascinating new items to their merchandise and the venture is proving to be a popular addition for villagers and tourists alike.

- Patty and Jerry Taetz, the new proprietors of the Maple Leaf Cottages, had a holiday open house at #12 Selma on December 20, 1985, inviting the village to share in the new furnishings and future plans for the Maple Leaf. The historic smokehouse and back garden patio will be available to the guests in the spring.

- 1885-1985. The Taetz also hosted a Fall Craft Show, held October 4-5 and 26-27, 1985, as the conclusion of the activity for the Centennial Year of Farley's MUSIC HALL. A variety of crafts, antiques, and bakery goods were enjoyed by all. The fall decorations were compatible with the period of the building. The people inside the building and outside gave it a feeling of excitement. The MUSIC HALL must have given many people many happy memories. It was fun to envision what it might have been like to be part of the people in the village, the music and fun at the MUSIC HALL in 1885.

- A new store opened in early December, 1984, on the second floor of the Mott Commercial Building. "Jeremiah's -- Elsah" consignment shop accepts for sale pre-owned clothing and accessories, small household items, and an occasional piece of antique furniture. It also has a complete selection of Historic Elsah Foundation publications, including the Elsah guidebook.

Jeralyn Hosmer, who runs the store, had the help of Blanche Darnell in decorating the rooms, adding a dressing room, carpeting, and a "rug-sculptured tree" that almost covers two walls of one of the rooms. After only six months in business, central air conditioning was installed in order to improve the store's offering to the public. HEF, which owns the building, had long wanted to carry out that project.



**Thank you for your
helpful support:**

**New Patron and
Lifetime members**

(since last newsletter)

Patrons

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Schwarz, Elsau, IL

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bradley, Elsau, IL

Lifetime

Mrs. T. R. Vincr, Knoxville, IA

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bunting, Kirkwood, MO

Mrs. Alma Barnes, Petersburg, IL



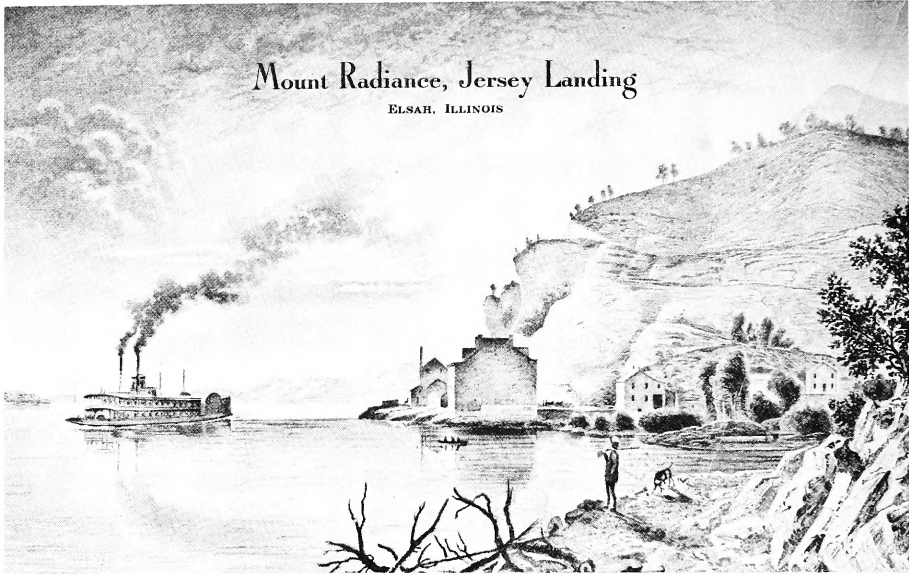
Snow forms by Bob Graul.

— Please note our changed membership categories —

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Thank You!



Artists are known for using dramatic license: Note the faint extra peak on "Mount Radiance" in this 1865 lithograph. This illustration includes (from l. to r.), the Knapp-Goodrich distillery; a bazy profile of the gambrel-roofed Doron flour mill; the small Hansell warehouses; the large Odd Fellows' Hall with its original roof (the building was located at the present entrance to Elsah); Riverview House before its multiple additions; a glimpse of the recent Trovillion Doll House; and what is probably the "Bible House" — now the Pfeifer residence.

